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NEWS RELEASE

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**State Awards 11 New Schools for 6 School Districts  
Construction Set to Begin in Four Others**

(PHOENIX, AZ – January 5, 2006) The Arizona School Facilities Board (SFB) approved eleven new schools for six districts at their monthly board meeting today.

The schools were awarded as part of the FY06 Capital Plan Cycle, which will continue for the next five months. The cycle begins in early September when districts submit their requests for new construction. From that time on, SFB staff analyzes the requests taking into account factors such as current district capacity and projected growth. Since this cycle began, the Board has awarded \$157,001,927 in new schools.

In the Phoenix area, the Chandler and Dysart districts received a total of six schools. Chandler Unified received two K-6 schools, one for 988 and one for 942 students; those are expected to open in Fall 2006 and Fall 2007. The total cost of Chandler's projects is \$20,300,319. Dysart Unified was approved for three K-8 schools for 1,100 students each and a high school for 1,800 students. One elementary is expected to open in Fall 2006 with the high school and the other two elementary schools opening in the Fall of 2008. The total funding for Dysart's projects is \$68,243,778. Additionally, Fowler Elementary was awarded additional space for 110 students at a cost of \$1,157,013.

In the Southern Arizona area, the Sahuarita and Vail districts received three schools. Sahuarita Unified received a high school for 721 students expected to open in Fall 2008 at a cost of \$13,801,310. Vail Unified was approved for two K-5 schools for 600 students each. They are expected to open in Fall 2006 and 2007 with a total project cost of \$12,621,960.

In other areas, Casa Grande Elementary received a K-5 school for 750 students expected to open in Fall 2007. The cost of the project is \$7,888,725. And, Humboldt Unified was awarded a 6-8 school for 722 students to open in Fall 2008. The cost of the project is \$8,459,244.

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These approvals will allow the districts to design their schools within the allocated budgets. Upon completion of design, the project will go before the Board again for approval to begin actual construction.

The Board also approved four districts to begin construction on their previously board-approved schools. They are:

Buckeye Union for a 9-12 for 1,200 students at a total cost of \$21,342,801

Higley Unified for a 9-12 for 1,700 students at a total cost of \$32,518,308

Laveen Elementary for a K-8 for 1,000 students at a total cost of \$10,423,475

Sahuarita Unified for a K-8 for 1,200 students at a total cost of \$11,739,532

More construction approvals are anticipated at next month's meeting to be held February 2 in Phoenix.